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The Claims:

1. A method of providing a digital data item to a user, the user having registered on a server so that user information has been stored in a User Information Database, an application also having been associated with a user terminal by encoding a unique identifier of the user terminal in the application, the unique identifier also having been stored in the User Information Database, the method including the steps of:

receiving a request for the digital data item from the application on the user terminal;

checking the authorisation of the application to obtain the digital data item by querying the User Information Database; and if authorised,

transmitting the digital data item to the user terminal.

2. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the user information and the unique identifier are also stored on the user terminal.

3. The method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the user information and the unique identifier are stored in a further User Information Database on the user terminal.

4. The method as claimed in claim 3, wherein authorisation is performed by comparing the User Information Database on the server and the further User Information Database on the user terminal.

5. The method as claimed in any one of the claims 1 to 4, wherein the unique identifier is a serial number of the user terminal or part thereof.

6. The method as claimed in any one of the claims 1 to 5, wherein successful completion of transmittal of the digital data item is reported to and tracked by the server.

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7. The method as claimed in any one of the claims 1 to 6, wherein the digital data item is allocated a unique serial number.

10 8. The method as claimed in any one of the claims 1 to 7, wherein the digital data item can only be subsequently transmitted to a second user terminal by the server once the digital data item has been deleted from the user terminal.

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9. A method of transferring a digital data item from an originator terminal to a recipient terminal, the method including the steps of:

20 an originator application on the originator terminal requesting the transfer of the digital data item, the request being transmitted to a server;

a recipient application on the recipient terminal accepting the request for the transfer of the digital data item, the request being transmitted from the server;

25 deleting the digital data item from the originator terminal; and,

transmitting the digital data item from the server to the recipient terminal.

30 10. The method as claimed in claim 9, wherein a unique key is also transmitted to the recipient terminal.

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11. The method as claimed in either claim 9 or 10, wherein a database associated with the server is updated to record the transfer of the digital data item.

5 12. The method as claimed in any one of the claims 9 to 11, wherein a user of the originator terminal and a user of the recipient terminal are registered in a User Information Database associated with the server.

10 13. The method as claimed in any one of the claims 9 to 12, wherein the server checks access rights of a user prior to the transfer of the digital data item.

14. The method as claimed in any one of the claims 15 9 to 13, wherein the digital data item is part of a Content Library Database associated with the server.

15. A system for providing a digital data item for use by a user, including:

20 an application provided on a user terminal, the application storing a unique identifier of the user terminal;

25 a User Information Database, the unique identifier also being stored in the User Information Database; and,

a server adapted to check the authorisation of the application to receive the digital data item by querying the User Information Database, and to transmit the digital data item to the user terminal.

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16. A system for transferring a digital data item from an originator terminal to a recipient terminal, the system including:

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an originator application provided on the originator terminal for requesting the transfer of the digital data item, the request being transmitted to a server;

5 a recipient application provided on the recipient terminal for receiving the request for the transfer of the digital data item, the request being transmitted from the server;

10 the server adapted to effect deletion of the digital data item from the originator terminal and transmit the digital data item from the server to the recipient terminal.

15 17. A processing system for facilitating the transfer of a digital data item from an originator terminal to a recipient terminal, the processing system including:

a first processing system associated with at least one User Information Database;

20 a second processing system associated with at least one Content Library Database;

the first processing system adapted to receive a request for the transfer of the digital data item from an originator application provided on an originator terminal;

25 the second processing system adapted to effect deletion of the digital data item from the originator terminal and transmit the digital data item to a recipient application provided on the recipient terminal.

18. The processing system as claimed in claim 17,
30 wherein the first processing system is a user information server.

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19. The processing system as claimed in claim 17, wherein the second processing system is a content library server.

5 20. The processing system as claimed in any one of the claims 17 to 19, wherein tracking information is stored in the first or second processing system.

10 21. The processing system as claimed in any one of the claims 17 to 20, wherein the originator application stores a unique identifier of the originator terminal.

15 22. The processing system as claimed in any one of the claims 17 to 21, wherein the recipient application stores a unique identifier of the recipient terminal.

20 23. The processing system as claimed in either of the claims 21 or 22, wherein the unique identifier is also stored in the User Information Database.

24. The processing system as claimed in any one of the claims 17 to 23, further adapted to verify the transfer request by querying the User Information Database prior to transmitting the digital data item to the recipient terminal.

25 25. The processing system as claimed in any one of the claims 17 to 24, wherein the originator terminal and the recipient terminal are each provided with a further User 30 Information Database.

26. The processing system as claimed in any one

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of the claims 17 to 25, further adapted to confer a ranking to a user based on the user's DDI ownership portfolio at a given time.

5 27. The processing system as claimed in any one of the claims 17 to 26, wherein the User Information Database facilitates the tracking and publication of DDIs for sale, barter or transfer.

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